STATE OF CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION FINAL STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION

Amend Subsection 300(a)(1)(G) Title 14, California Code of Regulations Re: Upland Game Birds – Wild Turkeys

- I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: October 14, 2008
- II. Date of Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons: November 21, 2008
- III. Date of Final Statement of Reasons: December 15, 2008
- IV. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:

(a) Notice Hearing:

Date: October 3, 2008

Location: Santa Rosa

(b) Discussion Hearing

Date: November 14, 2008

Location: Huntington Beach

(c) Adoption Hearing:

Date: December 12, 2008

Location: Sacramento

- V. Update: No modifications were made to the originally proposed regulatory language in the Initial Statement of Reasons.
- VI. Summary of Primary Considerations Raised in Support of or Opposition to the Proposed Actions and Reasons for Rejecting those considerations:

Responses to public comments received prior to November 21, 2008 were included in the Preadoption Statement of Reasons (attached). In addition, five people spoke in favor of the proposed regulation change at the discussion hearing. These individuals are listed below:

Ryan Mathis – National Wild Turkey Federation
Tom Dockter – National Wild Turkey Federation
Bill Gaines – California Outdoor Heritage Alliance
Walt Mansell – California Rifle and Pistol Association
Ed Worley – National Rifle Association

VII. Location and Index of Rulemaking File:

A rulemaking file with attached file index is maintained at: California Fish and Game Commission 1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814

VIII. Location of Department files:

Department of Fish and Game 1416 Ninth Street Sacramento, California 95814

IX. Description of Reasonable Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

(a) Alternatives to Regulatory Action:

No other alternatives were identified.

(b) No change Alternative:

The no change alternative would retain the existing spring turkey hunting seasons, and would not provide the proposed additional opportunity for junior hunters prior to the general season.

(c) Consideration of Alternatives: In view of information currently possessed, no reasonable alternative considered would be more effective in carrying out the purposes for which the regulation is proposed or would be as effective and less burdensome to the affected private persons than the proposed regulation.

X. Impact of Regulatory Action:

The potential for significant statewide adverse economic impacts that might result from the proposed regulatory action has been assessed, and the following determinations relative to the required statutory categories have been made:

(a) Significant Statewide Adverse Economic Impact Directly Affecting
Businesses, Including the Ability of California Businesses to Compete with
Businesses in Other States:

The proposed action will not have a significant statewide adverse economic impact directly affecting business, including the ability of California businesses to compete with businesses in other states. The proposed regulation change is sufficiently minor that there would be no significant economic impact to businesses.

(b) Impact on the Creation or Elimination of Jobs Within the State, the Creation of New Businesses or the Elimination of Existing Businesses, or the Expansion of Businesses in California: None (c) Cost Impacts on a Representative Private Person or Business: None Costs or Savings to State Agencies or Costs/Savings in Federal Funding (d) to the State: None (e) Nondiscretionary Costs/Savings to Local Agencies: None (f) Programs mandated on Local Agencies or School Districts: None Costs Imposed on Any Local Agency or School District that is Required (g) to be Reimbursed Under Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4: None (h) Effect on Housing Costs: None

Updated Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Existing regulations specify the conditions under which upland game species in California may be hunted. A principal mandate and objective of the Department is to provide for public use and enjoyment of wildlife including hunting. Within the framework of existing regulations, the Commission may modify season dates, bag limits, and other regulations to both conserve wildlife species while providing for their public use.

The proposed regulatory change modifies the regulations to add a 2-day Spring Junior Hunt (16 years of age and younger) period the weekend prior to the normal Spring turkey season. In Spring 2009, the turkey season begins the last Saturday in March and extends for 37 consecutive days. The proposed change would add the Saturday and Sunday preceding the opening day as a 2-day hunt period for juniors.

The purpose is to provide additional recreational opportunity to young hunters for the abundant turkey populations in the State.

At the Adoption Hearing, the Commission adopted the regulation change as proposed.